United Nations E/2013/15/Add.2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
16 May 2013

Original: English

Substantive session of 2013
Geneva, 1-26 July 2013
Item 10 of the provisional agenda*
Regional cooperation

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General**

Addendum

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention: Economic Commission for Africa and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Summary

The present addendum to the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields contains information on resolutions and decisions adopted at the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (forty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Africa), held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, and at the sixty-ninth session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013. The full texts of the resolutions are available from www.un.org/regionalcommissions/sessions.html.

* E/2013/100.

** The report was submitted late in order to allow for the inclusion of information on resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, May 2013.

13-33781 (E) 030613

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

Draft resolution

1. At its forty-sixth session, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) adopted resolution 908 (XLVI), on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council.

Refocusing and recalibrating the Economic Commission for Africa to support Africa's structural transformation

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking note of resolution 908 (XLVI), entitled "Refocusing and recalibrating the Economic Commission for Africa to support Africa's structural transformation", adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, by which the Conference endorsed the revised strategic framework and related proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 and the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning,

Endorses the updated statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, as set out in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex
Statute of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

Article I
Purpose and functions of the Institute

1. The primary purpose of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning shall be the specialist training of the officials of those services and institutions in Africa responsible for economic policy design and management; and development planning, monitoring and evaluation. Such training shall include appropriate supportive research activities. The Institute shall also organize workshops, seminars and policy dialogues of varied duration on practical problems of national, regional and international development pertinent to its training mandate and the needs of African Governments.

2. The four core functions of the Institute shall be to:

(a) Provide at its headquarters and at any other location in Africa, training courses, encompassing short and post-graduate programmes, of varying duration on various aspects of economic policy design and management, and development planning, monitoring and evaluation;

(b) Organize in African countries, in cooperation with the appropriate national services, subregional and regional bodies and international specialized agencies, seminars and policy dialogues of varying duration on practical problems

relating to national and continental economic management, development and planning;

(c) Provide advisory services at the request of Governments, doing so in close concert and collaboration with the relevant programme divisions of the Economic Commission for Africa, and insofar as its training programme allows;

(d) Establish and maintain documentation which will be made available throughout Africa in hard-copy and electronic formats to researchers, national institutions and subregional and regional organizations working in the field of economic planning and development.

3. In undertaking these four functions, the Institute should take into account the paramount importance of promoting and defending the economic independence of African countries.

Article II
Site of the Institute

1. The headquarters of the Institute shall be situated in Dakar, Senegal.

2. The host Government shall provide, in agreement with the United Nations, adequate premises, facilities and services as required for the efficient operation of the Institute.

Article III
Status and organization of the Institute

1. The Institute is and shall operate as a subsidiary body of the Economic Commission for Africa.

2. The Institute shall have its own governing council and budget. It shall be subject to the financial regulations and the staff regulations of the United Nations, except as may be otherwise provided for by the General Assembly. It shall also be subject to the financial rules, the staff rules and all other administrative issuances of the Secretary-General, except as may be otherwise decided by him or her.

3. In addition, there shall be a technical advisory committee, a Director and supporting staff.

Article IV
Governing Council

1. The Governing Council shall be the prime oversight and decision-making organ of the Institute, and shall act to give effect to the broad directions established for the work of the Institute by the Economic Commission for Africa, Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

2. The Governing Council shall be composed as follows:

(a) The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(b) Ten representatives of African Governments, two each from the five subregions of the continent (Central Africa, Eastern Africa, North Africa, Southern Africa and West Africa);

(c) One representative of the Government of Senegal as host country;

(d) One representative of the African Union Commission;

(e) The Director of the Institute in an ex officio capacity and serving as the Secretary of the Governing Council.

3. The 10 members of the Governing Council who serve as representatives of African Governments shall be appointed by the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the basis of an equal representation of the five subregions of the African continent. They shall be appointed on a voluntary basis, in cognizance of their individual commitment and professional competences, and with regard to their experience in affairs connected with the work of the Institute.

4. The member of the Governing Council designated by the African Union Commission shall be recommended by the Chairperson of the Commission from among the elected officials of the Commission for appointment by the Conference.

5. All members appointed by the Conference from the five subregions of the African continent and the member appointed on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission shall serve for a period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for one additional term only. Vacancies occurring owing to disability or resignation shall be filled for the interim period by the Conference.

6. The Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa shall be the Chairperson of the Governing Council.

7. The Governing Council shall:

(a) Adopt general principles and policies governing the operations of the Institute, including the general conditions of admissions into the Institute's programmes;

(b) Review and approve the annual work programme and budget of the Institute;

(c) Approve the courses offered by the Institute and the requirements for admission into them on the advice of the Technical Advisory Committee and the Director;

(d) Contribute to the determination of the type and nature of the certificates to be awarded at the end of the training courses offered by the Institute;

(e) Examine and approve the Director's annual report on the work and progress of the Institute, including the budgetary and financial report for the preceding year;

(f) Present an annual report on the work of the Institute, including a complete audited report in respect of all incomes and expenditures, to the annual Economic Commission for Africa Conference;

(g) Oversee the general administration of the Institute and make such recommendations as it may deem appropriate;

(h) Constitute a Technical Advisory Committee of 10 members to work with it and the Director of the Institute on the quality and relevance of programmes.

8. The Governing Council shall hold two ordinary sessions every year to adopt the budget and programme activities, review the management report and statement of accounts, approve the development of new programmes and ensure the good administration of the Institute. It may hold an extraordinary session at the request of the Chairperson or one third of its members. The Governing Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article V
Technical Advisory Committee

1. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be composed of:

(a) Ten representatives of African Governments, two each from the five subregions of the continent, as provided for in Article IV, paragraph 2 (b);

(b) The Director of Economic Affairs at the African Union Commission;

(c) The Director of the Institute.

2. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governing Council on the recommendation of the Chairperson of the Council and shall normally be requested to serve for at least three years at a time.

3. The Director shall be the Chairperson of the Technical Advisory Committee.

4. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be responsible for giving technical advice with regard to the design of the training and related programmes and activities of the Institute. It shall do so with an eye on quality, relevance, timeliness, impact and sustainability.

5. The Technical Advisory Committee shall be convened at least once a year by its Chairperson. At its meeting, it shall formulate recommendations to be submitted to the Governing Council on the current and future work programme of the Institute. It shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

Article VI
Chairperson of the Governing Council

The Chairperson of the Council shall:

(a) Convene the Governing Council and propose its agenda;

(b) By delegation of authority from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, appoint the Director and other professional staff of the Institute;

(c) With the approval of the Governing Council, solicit and receive support for the work of the Institute from specialized agencies of the United Nations, intergovernmental agencies, African Governments, non-governmental organizations and other sources.

Article VII
Director

1. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, upon recommendation by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, shall appoint the Director of the Institute. The Executive Secretary shall consult with the Governing

Council before making his or her recommendation. The initial appointment of the Director shall be for three years, renewable for succeeding periods of three years each subject to a satisfactory evaluation of the performance of the incumbent in accordance with established United Nations rules and procedures.

2. The Director will be assisted by professional and general support staff appointed in accordance with the rules and procedures governing different categories of United Nations staff appointments.

3. The Director shall have the responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the Institute. In accordance with the policies laid down by the Governing Council, she or he shall:

(a) Submit the programme and budget of the Institute to the Governing Council for approval;

(b) Carry out programmes and effect disbursements as provided for in the budget through which funds have been allocated;

(c) Submit annual reports on the activities of the Institute to the Governing Council, together with a complete report on revenue and expenditure for the preceding period;

(d) Submit the names of senior personnel for approval and appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, depending on the level of the posts to be encumbered;

(e) Select and appoint personnel of the Institute other than those referred to in subparagraph (d) above, after consultation with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa;

(f) Make the necessary arrangements with other national and international organizations for the utilization of the services offered by the Institute, it being understood that arrangements with national organizations will be made with the approval of the Governments concerned.

Article VIII
Cooperation with the secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa

The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa shall, within the limits of its resources, assist the Institute in every possible way in order to facilitate its work. In particular, from time to time it shall provide the Institute with experienced staff to give lectures, assist in supervising research within the Institute's postgraduate training programmes and participate in workshops, seminars and policy dialogue.

Article IX
Financial resources and rules governing the financial management of the Institute

The Institute shall derive its finances from contributions made by African Governments and by the United Nations. The Institute may derive further resources in cash or in kind from the United Nations, its specialized agencies, other governmental organizations and institutions, and Governments and

non-governmental organizations. Acceptance by the Institute of offers of such further assistance shall, in every case, be subject to the decision of the Chairperson of the Governing Council, in consultation with the Director of the Institute, in accordance with the basic aims of the Institute and the relevant provisions of the rules governing the financial management of the Institute. The Chairperson of the Governing Council shall report on the matter to the Council at its next session.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Draft resolution I

2. At its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolution 69/1, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council.

A conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, of resolution 69/1, entitled "A conference structure of the Commission for the inclusive and sustainable development of Asia and the Pacific", by which the Commission decided to revise its conference structure, as set out in annexes I, II and III to the present resolution,

Endorses the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, as set out in annexes I, II and III to the present resolution.

Annex I
Conference structure of the Commission

I. Commission

1. The Commission shall meet annually under an overarching theme selected by member States, with each session comprising a senior officials segment of three days followed by a ministerial segment of two days, for a total of five working days, to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, review and endorse the proposed strategic framework and programme of work and take any other decisions required in conformity with its terms of reference.

2. The sessions of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be held jointly for a maximum of one day during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the committees of the whole; a one-day preparatory meeting of the Special Body will be held immediately before the beginning of the Commission session.

3. The Commission session may include a distinguished person's lecture; high-level representatives of United Nations agencies may be invited to participate

in panel discussions held during the Commission session, and corporate leaders and civil society organizations may be invited to participate in the session as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

4. The Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which convenes prior to the Commission session, shall be reconstituted as the Working Group on Draft Resolutions during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the committees of the whole.

5. The number of simultaneous meetings of the committees of the whole, including their commensurate bodies, held during the senior officials segment of the annual session of the Commission shall not exceed two.

6. Draft resolutions shall reflect the substantive deliberations of member States; furthermore, without prejudice to rule 31 of its rules of procedure, members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission, and the Commission shall not consider draft resolutions submitted within one week of the first day of the Commission session.

7. The report of the Commission will be composed of the decisions and resolutions of the Commission. The draft record of proceedings of the Commission, prepared by the secretariat, will be circulated among members and associate members for comment within 15 days of the conclusion of the session. Members and associate members will be requested to provide comments within 15 days of receiving the draft record of proceedings. The secretariat's final record of proceedings of the Commission session will be issued within two months of the conclusion of the session, taking into account the relevant comments of members and associate members.

II. Subsidiary structure

8. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following eight committees:

(a) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development;

(b) Committee on Trade and Investment;

(c) Committee on Transport;

(d) Committee on Environment and Development;

(e) Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

(f) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

(g) Committee on Social Development;

(h) Committee on Statistics.

9. The eight committees shall meet biennially, with four committees meeting each year, for a maximum duration of five days for each session.

10. Within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall:

(a) Review and analyse regional trends;

(b) Identify, in consultation with member States, their priorities and emerging issues and consult on regional approaches, taking into consideration subregional aspects;

(c) Promote regional dialogue, including its subregional synergies, and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes;

(d) Consider common regional positions as inputs to global processes and promote regional follow-up to their outcomes;

(e) Propose issues for consideration by the Commission as the basis for possible resolutions;

(f) Monitor the implementation of Commission resolutions;

(g) Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region, where appropriate, between Governments and civil society, the private sector and United Nations and other international institutions at the regional and subregional levels.

11. Furthermore, within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall provide the secretariat, including its regional institutions, with guidance in reviewing the proposed strategic framework and programme of work.

12. The following areas shall be mainstreamed into the work of all committees:

(a) Implementation of the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) Poverty reduction and balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development;

(c) Gender equality;

(d) Priority needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

13. Representatives of civil society and the private sector may, upon consultation with member States, be invited to join the committee sessions as appropriate, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

14. The specific issues to be addressed by each of the eight committees in carrying out the functions outlined above are listed in annex II.

III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings

15. Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings may be organized on specific and cross-sectoral issues.

16. No more than six such ministerial conferences or other intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days shall not exceed 20.

17. In those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee, the corresponding committee need not be convened.

IV. Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

18. The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III.

19. The Advisory Committee may, if necessary, establish its own working groups to consider specific issues.

20. The Advisory Committee shall meet with sufficient frequency, in both formal and informal meetings on topical subjects, especially prior to the Commission session. The number of formal meetings of the Advisory Committee per calendar year shall not be less than 6 or more than 12. Any additional meetings, formal or informal, will be held in consultation with the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary and may not require documentation by the secretariat, unless otherwise requested by the Advisory Committee.

21. Should the need arise to seek the views of United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations on subjects of interest to the Advisory Committee, members of the Advisory Committee can, if consensus has been reached, request the secretariat to invite representatives of particular United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations to attend a subsequent session of the Advisory Committee.

22. The Advisory Committee shall periodically review the work of subregional offices and regional institutions and actively follow up and report on the implementation of resolutions by member States. The secretariat shall facilitate the reporting on resolutions by preparing the requisite guidelines and templates.

V. Existing regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission

23. The following institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

(b) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture;

(c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

(d) Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization;

(e) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.

VI. General provisions

A. Rules of procedure

24. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the committees.

B. Informal session

25. An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least 30 days before the opening of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided.

Annex II
Issues to be addressed by the committees subsidiary to the Commission

The issues listed below are the primary issues to be addressed by each committee. The Commission may adjust the list of issues for any committee at any time, as appropriate; the committees shall likewise retain the flexibility to address new or emerging issues brought to their attention by the secretariat upon consultation with member States.

1. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development:

(a) Experiences and practices in formulating and implementing macroeconomic policies to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable and inclusive development;

(b) Regional economic development policies and options, including in the area of financing for development;

(c) Strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on poverty reduction;

(d) Pro-poor economic growth for increasing the income and employment of the poor;

(e) Policy options and programmes for reducing rural poverty, including those with a gender dimension, through the sustainable development of secondary crops.

2. Committee on Trade and Investment:

(a) Regional cooperative mechanisms and agreements in trade, investment and finance, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement;

(b) Policy options on trade and investment, enterprise development and finance;

(c) Policy options and strategies for sustainable economic growth and rural poverty reduction through agro-technology transfer and agro-based enterprise development;

(d) Technology transfer to address regional development challenges.

3. Committee on Transport:

(a) Transport policy options and programmes, including those targeting the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) The Asian Highway Network, the trans-Asian railway network and other initiatives promoted by the Commission for planning international intermodal transport linkages;

(c) Measures to improve road safety and the efficiency of transport operations and logistics;

(d) Support for accession to and the implementation of international transport agreements.

4. Committee on Environment and Development:

(a) Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy;

(b) Policies and strategies for the use of sustainable planning and the use of water resources;

(c) Regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy resources;

(d) Policies and strategies for promoting inclusive and sustainable urban development.

5. Committee on Information and Communications Technology:

(a) Integration of information and communications technology-related issues into development policies, plans and programmes;

(b) Transfer and application of information and communications technology at the regional and subregional levels;

(c) Development of human and institutional capacity in the use of information and communications technology;

(d) Information and communications technology applications for disaster risk reduction.

6. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction:

(a) Policy options and strategies on multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation;

(b) Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk management, including space and other technical support systems;

(c) Multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks.

7. Committee on Social Development:

(a) Implementation of internationally agreed commitments, including those agreed at the United Nations on social development, population, ageing, disability, youth and disadvantaged groups, gender equality and health;

(b) Policy options, strategies and good practices in social policy and protection;

(c) Social policies and financing aimed at building inclusive societies.

8. Committee on Statistics:

(a) Ensure that by 2020 all countries in the region have the capability to provide a basic range of population, economic, social and environmental statistics;

(b) Create a more adaptive and cost-effective information management environment for national statistical offices through stronger collaboration.

Annex III

Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

(a) To strengthen close cooperation and consultation between the member States and the secretariat, including by providing advice and guidance to be taken into account by the Executive Secretary while undertaking the respective activities;

(b) To serve as a deliberative forum for substantive exchange of views and provide guidance on the formulation of the agenda of the Commission and in connection with economic and social developments that have an impact on the Asia-Pacific region;

(c) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework, programme of work and theme topics for sessions of the Commission consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission;

(d) To receive, on a regular basis, information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission;

(e) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Commission's programme of work and resource allocation;

(f) To review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;

(g) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, consistent with the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the developmental priorities of member States, as defined by them, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

(h) To advise and guide the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas and on the formulation of the annotated provisional agendas for Commission sessions;

(i) To be informed of collaboration and related arrangements between the secretariat and other international and regional organizations, in particular on long-term cooperation programmes and joint initiatives, including those to be proposed by the Executive Secretary and conducted under the auspices of the Regional Coordination Mechanism;

(j) To carry out any other tasks entrusted to it by the Commission.

Draft resolution II

3. At its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted resolution 69/5, on the basis of which the following draft resolution is submitted for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, of resolution 69/5, entitled "Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization", by which the Commission adopted the revised statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, as set out in the Annex to the present resolution,

Endorses the revised statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization, as set out in the Annex to the present resolution.

Annex
Statute of the Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

Establishment

1. The Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization (hereinafter "the Centre") was established as the Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery on 22 May 2002 pursuant to Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 58/5 of the same date, and subsequently superseded by the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery through Commission resolution 61/3 of 18 May 2005.

2. The membership of the Centre shall be identical to the membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (hereinafter "the Commission").

3. The Centre shall have the status of a subsidiary body of the Commission.

Objectives

4. The objectives of the Centre are to enhance technical cooperation among the members and associate members of the Commission as well as other interested States Members of the United Nations, through extensive exchange of information and sharing of knowledge and promotion of research and development and agro-enterprise development in the areas of sustainable agricultural mechanization and technology for the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in the region.

Functions

5. The Centre will achieve the objectives set out above through the undertaking of such functions as:

(a) Assistance in the improvement of agricultural engineering and sustainable agricultural mechanization;

(b) Enhancement of farm mechanization technologies in addressing issues related to subsistence farming for increased food security and poverty reduction and in promoting agro-based small and medium-sized enterprise development and commercial farming, to seize opportunities for increased market access and agro-food trade;

(c) A focus on an agro-based enterprise cluster concept and enterprise development activities to enhance the capabilities of members in identifying potential agricultural commodities in their respective countries on a clustering basis;

(d) Regional cooperation in green agro-technology transfer, including through networking of focal point national institutes in countries members of the Centre and other relevant institutions;

(e) The setting-up of an interactive Internet website to allow members full access to information and technology databases, including the sharing of expert systems and decision support systems in the financial management of small and medium-sized enterprises;

(f) Promotion of the process of technology transfer from research and development institutes to the agricultural and farm machinery extension systems in member countries for poverty reduction;

(g) Assistance in the dissemination and exchange of sustainable and commercially successful machinery and related drawings of appropriate tools, machines and equipment;

(h) Technical assistance projects, capacity-building programmes, training workshops and seminars and advisory services on sustainable agricultural mechanization and related food safety standards;

(i) Tapping the resources of developed countries in building the capacity of member countries.

Status and organization

6. The Centre shall have a Governing Council (hereinafter "the Council"), a Director, other staff and a Technical Committee.

7. The Centre is located in Beijing.

8. The Centre's activities shall be in line with relevant policy decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission. The Centre shall be subject to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the applicable administrative instructions.

Governing Council

9. The Centre shall have a Governing Council, consisting of a representative designated by the Government of China and eight representatives nominated by other members and associate members of the Commission elected by the Commission. The members and associate members elected by the Commission

shall be elected for a period of three years but shall be eligible for re-election. The Executive Secretary or his or her representative shall attend meetings of the Council.

10. The Director of the Centre shall serve as Secretary of the Council.

11. Representatives of (a) States that are not members of the Council; (b) United Nations bodies and specialized and related agencies; and (c) such other organizations as the Council may deem appropriate, as well as experts in fields of interest to the Council, may be invited by the Executive Secretary to attend meetings of the Council.

12. The Council shall meet at least once a year and may adopt its own rules of procedure. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the Executive Secretary of the Commission, who may propose special sessions of the Council at his or her own initiative and shall convene such special sessions at the request of a majority of Council members.

13. A quorum for meetings of the Council shall be a majority of its members.

14. Each member of the Council shall have one vote. Decisions and recommendations of the Council shall be made by consensus or, where that is not possible, by a majority of the members present and voting.

15. The Council shall, at each regular session, elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. They shall hold office until the next regular session of the Council. The Chairperson or, in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairperson, shall preside at meetings of the Council. If the Chairperson is unable to serve for the full term for which she or he has been elected, the Vice-Chairperson shall act as Chairperson for the remainder of that term.

16. The Council shall review the administration and financial status of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work. The Executive Secretary shall submit an annual report, as adopted by the Council, to the Commission at its annual sessions.

Director and staff

17. The Centre shall have a Director, and staff, who shall be Commission staff members appointed under the appropriate United Nations regulations, rules and administrative instructions. The Director shall be appointed in a manner consistent with United Nations regulations and rules. The Council will be invited to nominate candidates for the position of Director, once the vacancy is announced, and provide advice, as appropriate. Other members and associate members of the Commission may also submit nominations for the post.

18. The Director shall be responsible to the Executive Secretary of the Commission for the administration of the Centre and the implementation of its programme of work.

Technical Committee

19. The Centre shall have a Technical Committee consisting of experts from members and associate members of the Commission as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Members and associate members of the

Commission will be invited to propose candidates for the Technical Committee. Members of the Technical Committee shall be appointed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Secretary. The Director may also invite governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions to propose experts who would best contribute to Technical Committee discussions on a specific topic.

20. The Technical Committee shall be responsible for advising the Director on the formulation of the programme of work and on other technical matters concerning the Centre's operations.

21. Reports of meetings of the Technical Committee, with the Director's observations thereon, shall be submitted to the Council at its next session.

22. The Chairperson of the Technical Committee shall be elected by the Committee itself at each meeting.

Resources of the Centre

23. All members and associate members of the Commission should be encouraged to make a regular annual contribution to the operations of the Centre. The United Nations shall administer a joint contribution trust fund in which those contributions shall be deposited.

24. The Centre will endeavour to mobilize sufficient resources to support its activities.

25. The United Nations shall maintain separate trust funds for voluntary contributions for technical cooperation projects or other extraordinary voluntary contributions for activities of the Centre.

26. The financial resources of the Centre shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

Amendments

27. Amendments to the present statute shall be adopted by the Commission.

Matters not covered by the present statute

28. In the event of any procedural matter arising that is not covered by the present statute or rules of procedure adopted by the Governing Council under paragraph 12 of the present statute, the pertinent part of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific shall apply.

Entry into force

29. The present statute shall enter into force on the date of its adoption by the Commission.

II. Matters brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council

A. Economic Commission for Africa

4. The Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (forty-sixth session of the Economic Commission for Africa), held in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on 25 and 26 March 2013, approved a ministerial statement and six resolutions, which are set out below for the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Summary of the ministerial statement

5. The African ministers of finance, planning and economic development deliberated on the theme "Industrialization for an emerging Africa". The ministers noted that the average growth rate of African countries had rebounded to 5 per cent in 2012 after a slowdown in 2011, but that this growth had not created many jobs, in part because African economies continued to rely heavily on primary commodity production and exports.

6. The ministers underlined that Africa must actively pursue a strategy of commodity-based industrialization by adding value to its natural resources, thereby creating employment for its young and urbanizing population. They acknowledged the need for dynamic and visionary leadership and coordinated actions to adopt and implement a coherent industrial policy.

7. The ministers welcomed the progress made by African countries towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals. However, cognizant of the enduring spatial, gender-based, income-based and demographic inequalities in access to social services, the ministers committed to investing in improving the availability and quality of social services.

8. The ministers commended the African Union Commission (AUC), ECA and the African Development Bank (AfDB) for conducting regional consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and requested them to ensure that African priorities were effectively reflected in the agenda.

9. The ministers noted the new strategic orientation of ECA and the refocusing of its programme priorities to better serve the African transformation agenda in a changing world. They further noted the call by African leaders to the Secretary-General of the United Nations to provide required support to ECA to enhance its work in accordance with Africa's priorities.

Industrialization for an emerging Africa (resolution 907 (XLVI))

10. The Conference of Ministers, inter alia, called on African governments to adopt and implement coherent industrial policies in order to increase value addition in local production and deepen linkages between the commodity sector and other economic sectors. They urged African Governments to create institutional industrial policy mechanisms to develop country-specific, industrial policy road maps for value addition in close collaboration with all stakeholders.

11. The ministers requested AUC and ECA to recommend appropriate strategies and mechanisms to support home-grown technologies, indigenous knowledge and knowledge-based innovation, including through the establishment of regional technology centres in each regional economic community. They further called on ECA and AUC to develop a coherent approach that would assist African countries in pursuing industrialization based on their comparative advantages; and requested ECA to assist the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States in developing industrial policies as a basis for resource-based industrialization and economic diversification.

Realizing and harnessing the demographic dividend in Africa (resolution 909 (XLVI))

12. In order to realize gains from Africa's demographic dividend, the Conference of Ministers, inter alia, committed to ensuring effective integration of job creating, social, demographic and health factors into broader development strategies and policies. The ministers requested ECA and AUC to develop a continental demographic dividend initiative that would allow the continent to accelerate economic development and contribute to the African renaissance. They invited multilateral agencies, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations, inter alia, to work with AUC, ECA and AfDB to provide technical assistance, expertise and financial resources to enable member States to act to capture the benefits of their demographic dividends.

African common position on the post-2015 development agenda (resolution 910 (XLVI))

13. The Conference of Ministers, inter alia, took note of the draft 2013 report on the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Africa and recommended its adoption by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government in May 2013. The ministers took note of the draft African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda and called upon AUC, ECA, AfDB and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to establish an African technical working group to translate Africa's priorities into concrete goals and targets and to feed them into the sustainable development goals process and the post-2015 global agenda.

Statistics and statistical development (resolution 911 (XLVI))

14. The Conference of Ministers, inter alia, requested AUC, AfDB, ECA and UNDP to create a working group to develop indicators for the post-2015 development agenda based on African priorities and to draw up a draft list of indicators by the end of 2013. They called upon AUC, ECA and AfDB to devote the next meeting of Directors General of African National Statistical Offices to the promotion of the production and use of economic statistics, including natural capital accounts, with a view to adequately supporting the transformation of African economies. The ministers urged ECA, AUC and AfDB to prepare a five-year strategic plan for the Pan African Statistical Training Centre, to be submitted to the meeting of Directors General of African National Statistical Offices by November 2013; requested the AUC, AfDB, ECA and the regional economic communities to prepare a strategic plan for the operationalization of the African Union Institute for Statistics and to organize an expert group meeting with a view to defining ways and means for its implementation. They urged UNDP, AfDB, ECA and the African

Governance Institute to continue to support the efforts of AUC to implement the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa.

B. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

15. At its sixty-ninth session, held in Bangkok from 25 April to 1 May 2013, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific adopted a number of resolutions, which are hereinunder brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

Final review of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action in the Asia-Pacific region (resolution 69/2)

16. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to assist Asia-Pacific landlocked developing countries in forwarding the Vientiane Consensus as the Asia-Pacific regional input to the final global review of the Almaty Programme of Action in 2014 and to assist them in implementing the recommendations of the Consensus and in building their capacity to make appropriate policy responses that mitigate the impact of economic crisis, restore growth, achieve the Millennium Development Goals and address the emerging development challenges to shape the development agenda beyond 2015.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific: Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States on the development agenda beyond 2015 (resolution 69/3)

17. The Commission welcomed the adoption of the Bangkok Declaration on 24 April 2013 at the meeting on the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 for Asia-Pacific least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. It requested the Executive Secretary to continue to assist those countries in achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

Asia-Pacific ministerial dialogue: from the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 (resolution 69/4)

18. The Commission welcomed the proposal of the Government of Thailand to hold the Asia-Pacific ministerial dialogue on the theme "From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015", in Bangkok from 26 to 28 August 2013. The Commission decided to identify and explore the challenges in achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication in the region that should be addressed in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

Implementation of the Tehran Declaration to promote public-private partnerships in infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific for sustainable development (resolution 69/6)

19. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the United Nations system, international and regional financial institutions and other

organizations, to continue to support the promotion of public-private partnerships for sustainable infrastructure development in the region.

Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports (resolution 69/7)

20. The Commission adopted the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports and requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the development of dry ports of international importance; collaborate with international and regional financing institutions, donors and international organizations for the development and operation of dry ports of international importance; and continue working towards the development of an intermodal transport and logistics system for the region, including through the development of the Asian Highway Network, the trans-Asian railway network and dry ports of international importance.

Enhancing knowledge-sharing and cooperation in integrated water resources management in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/8)

21. The Commission noted the outcome document of the first Asia-Pacific Water Summit, the Message from Beppu, and invited members and associate members to work towards integrating water resource management into national development plans and to strengthen integrated water resources with a view to ensuring sustainable development. It requested the Executive Secretary to coordinate with other United Nations agencies to make effective use of technology and innovation in water management and to facilitate the sharing of experiences, and best practices in this field.

Implementation of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme towards voluntary follow-up to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want" (resolution 69/9)

22. The Commission welcomed the convening by the Government of Kazakhstan of the meeting of stakeholders in the Green Bridge Partnership Programme in Astana in September 2013 to consider the establishment of the bodies responsible for the governance, implementation and coordination of and a financing facility for the Green Bridge Partnership Programme. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to support the elaboration of the institutional framework and programmatic activities of the Green Bridge Partnership Programme.

Promoting regional information and communications technology connectivity and building knowledge-networked societies in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/10)

23. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, inter alia, to promote an exchange of best practices and experiences on the development of information and communications technology infrastructure and to assist member States in their efforts to integrate information and communications technology into national development processes. The Commission further requested the Executive Secretary to pursue the facilitation and coordination of the regional review of progress in implementation of the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society and to continue to strengthen the programmes of the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development, as well as to work towards a regional framework for action.

Implementation of the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017 (resolution 69/11)

24. Recognizing that applications of space technology and geographical information systems have contributed significantly to addressing disaster risk reduction and management in the region, the Commission endorsed the Asia-Pacific Plan of Action for Applications of Space Technology and Geographic Information Systems for Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, 2012-2017, and requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of the Plan.

Enhancing regional cooperation for building resilience to disasters in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/12)

25. The Commission welcomed the convening of the sixth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Thailand in 2014 and the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan in early 2015, the latter to review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and to adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. Members and associate members were invited, inter alia, to address building resilience to natural hazards and disasters by mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into long-term development strategies. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with other actors, to encourage appropriate consideration of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in discussions of the post-2015 agenda and in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real" for Persons with Disabilities in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/13)

26. Recalling its resolution 68/7 on the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022, the Commission requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of the Ministerial Declaration on the Decade and the Incheon Strategy to "Make the Right Real", to prepare a road map for their implementation and to submit the Ministerial Declaration and the Incheon Strategy to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, to be convened on 23 September 2013 in New York.

Implementation of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (resolution 69/14)

27. Recalling its resolution 67/5 on the full and effective implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing in the Asia-Pacific region, the Commission endorsed the adoption of the Bangkok statement on the Asia-Pacific review of the implementation on the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing and requested the Executive Secretary to accord priority to the implementation of the recommendations contained in it.

Implementing the outcome of the high-level meeting on the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/15)

28. The Commission requested the Executive Secretary to convene in 2014 an intergovernmental regional meeting of ministers of health, ministers responsible for civil registration, heads of national statistical organizations and other relevant government stakeholders to endorse the regional strategic plan for the improvement of civil registration and vital statistics in Asia and the Pacific. It also requested the full development of and assistance in funding regional support activities for the regional strategic plan and the establishment of a regional steering group on civil registration and vital statistics.

A core set of population and social statistics to guide national capacity development in Asia and the Pacific (resolution 69/16)

29. The Commission, recognizing the increasing policy interest in population subgroups and economic and social inequalities, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee on Statistics that the core set of population and social statistics be used as a regional guideline for national capacity development to focus national efforts, coordinate regional cooperation and mobilize support by all relevant partners. It recommended that members and associate members use the core set of population and social statistics as a framework in the development of their national statistical systems.

Sustainable management, conservation and use of ocean resources for the development of Asia-Pacific small island developing States (resolution 69/17)

30. The Commission invited States parties to fully implement their obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It requested the Executive Secretary, inter alia, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies, international financial institutions and bilateral donors, to support capacity development in Asia-Pacific small island developing States for the sustainable management of oceans and seas as part of their efforts to eradicate poverty and ensure food security. The Commission also requested the Executive Secretary to develop the evidence base for determining how the sustainable use of oceans and seas and their resources could contribute to poverty eradication and sustained economic growth in Asia-Pacific small island developing States.